

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed on August 09, 2005. Claims 6, 8, 9, 20, 22, 38 and 41 have been amended. Claims 18, 19, 39 and 40 are cancelled. Claims 2-4, 6-17, 20-34, 38, and 41-47 remain pending.

Amendment to the Specification

The specification has been amended to correct the typographical error noted in paragraph one of the office action.

Claim Objections

In paragraph two of the office action, claims 22, 39, 41, 46 and 47 are objected to because of informalities. The identified informalities are corrected by the above amendments.

Claim Rejections

In paragraphs 3-5 of the office action, claims 2-4, 6-17, 21, 23-25, 27-32, 38, 40 and 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The patent owner disagrees with these rejections. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution of this application, which has been pending for more than four years, the rejected claims have been cancelled or amended to recite allowable subject matter, as detailed below.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the identification of allowable subject matter.

In paragraph 6 of the office action, claims 18-20, 26, 33-34 and 39 were found to be allowable, but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Accordingly, independent claims 6, 8 and 9 have been amended to include the limitations recited in claim 18, and claim 38 has been amended to include the limitations recited in claim 39. These amended claims are thus in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4, 7, 10-17, 20, 21, 23-34 and 42-45 each ultimately depend from one of amended claims 6, 8 or 9, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

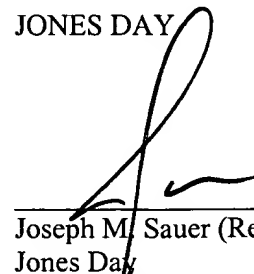
In paragraph 7 of the office action, claims 22, 41, 46 and 47 were found to be allowable, but were objected to because of the informality objections set forth in paragraph 2 of the office action. Claims 22 and 39 have been amended, as suggested, to overcome these informalities. Claims 22, 41, 46 and 47 are thus in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the patent owner respectfully submits that claims 2-4, 6-17, 20-34, 38, and 41-47 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to enter this amendment and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

JONES DAY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. M. Sauer', written over a horizontal line.

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